



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNTAIN GROVE MAN INDICTED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mountain Grove, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for violating federal firearms law.

Randy J. Reed, 43, of Mountain Grove, was charged in a single-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Today's indictment alleges that **Reed** was in possession of three rifles and ammunition on Feb. 19, 2004, in Wright County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Reed** has a 2004 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance in Wright County, a 1993 criminal felony conviction for arson in Wright County, a 1987 criminal felony conviction for sodomy in Macon County, Mo., and a 1981 criminal felony conviction for rape in Wright County.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Wright County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow